

Endangered 'Alala (Corvus tropicus)
Captive Propagation Update*

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The 'Alala (or Hawaiian Crow), Corvus tropicus, is one of the 30 endemic endangered Hawaiian bird species. although Munro considered the birds were "numerous" on the Big Island in 1891, the 'Alala population had fallen to no more than 150 wild birds by 1981. Causes for the population decline in the wild are believed to be habitat loss and alteration, nest disturbances, predation, illegal shooting, and avian diseases.

In addition to the wild birds, there are presently 8 captive 'Alala, all housed at the State Endangered Species Breeding Facility at Pohakuloa. These birds (with the exception of three which were born in captivity) are all salvaged birds. The ultimate goal is to release progeny from these birds back into the wild in habitat which has been secured for 'Alala management.

The Hawaii State Division of Forestry and Wildlife (formerly the Division of Fish and Game) has been involved in the captive propagation of 'Alala since 1976. Over the years several pairs have produced eggs at Pohakuloa and for the first time, in 1981 at the Honolulu Zoo, three 'Alala were hatched and fledged in captivity.